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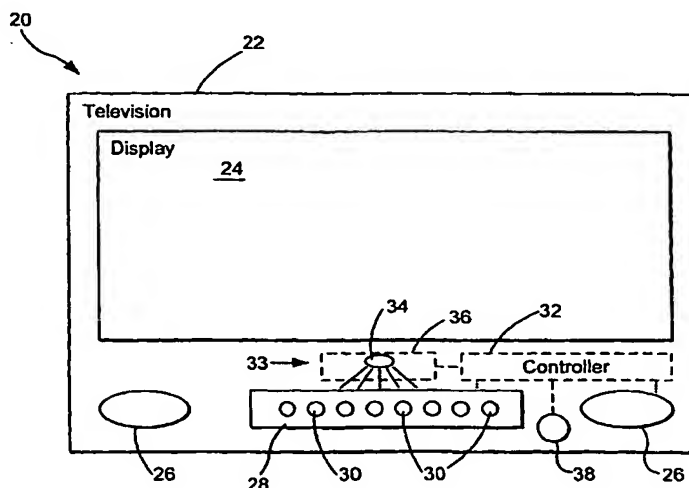
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(54) Title: VARIABLE INTENSITY ILLUMINATION DEVICE WITH DETECTION AND CONTROL CIRCUIT FOR A FRONT PANEL OF A TELEVISION APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A variable intensity light device (33) is provided to illuminate front panel user buttons in a television apparatus. The television apparatus allows user control of the level of light intensity preferably via an on-screen menu. Automatic detection circuitry/logic is also provided that detects whether a light such as an LED is present upon initial user set-up. This allows the inclusion of the light device in televisions whose controllers are already designed. Moreover, the light device preferably utilizes a single wire for light presence detection and intensity control. Detection of the light causes the television apparatus to include a light control on-screen menu in the main television on-screen menu. Preferably, the light control menu allows the user selection of at least six different brightness or intensity levels for the light. In one form, the light is a diode (34) that provides blue light through a light pipe (42).

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